

▼ J A N U A R Y I •

Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves

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▼ S O L D B Y D O N A T I O N

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First Night party volunteers had a blast in their over-size costumes

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We would like all pets identifies and names, as well as at least the first names of any people in any photos. Any submissions will not be returned, please keep your own copy of any photo your submit.

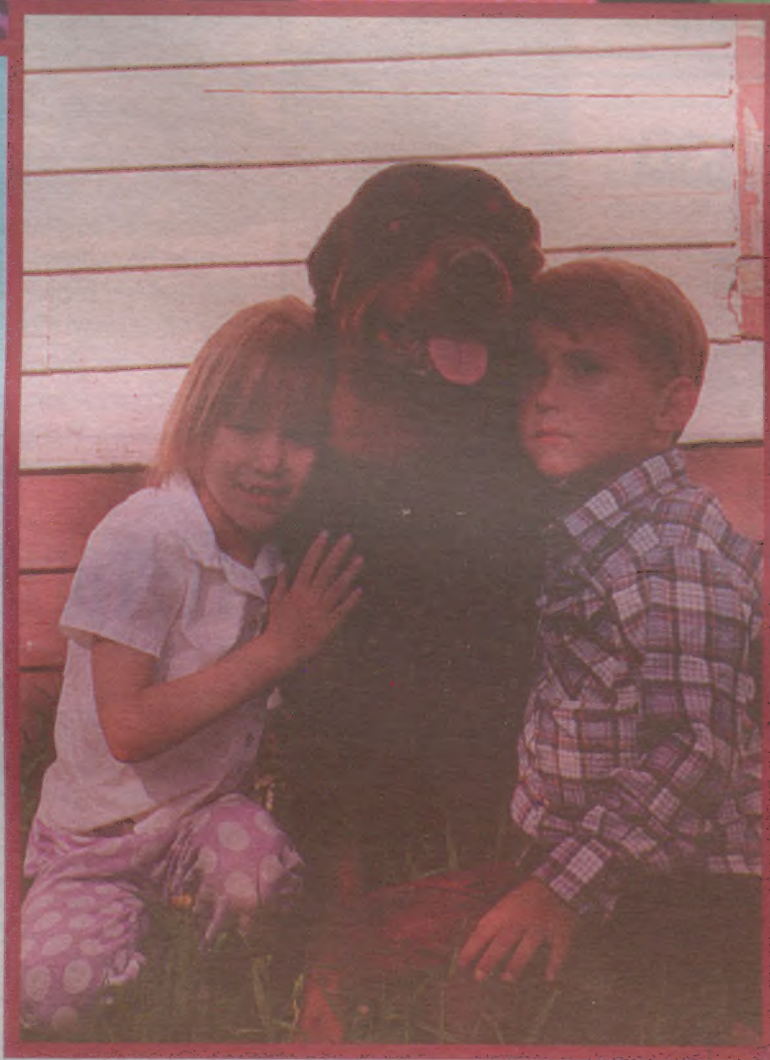


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TOBY RAMSDEN, C.A.



NEWS • of the World

The man's a dead shot with a coconut

Thieves are arming themselves with increasingly bizarre weapons. In London a betting shop was help up by a man wielding a plastic lemon squeezer. "He put a lemon in it and crushed the ice out," said one cashier. "We were terrified." Likewise, employees of a Nairobi bank, who were recently confronted by a man with a sack of coconuts. Workers at the Trust Bank were going about their business when Jesus Wtambe burst through the door, cried "I never miss", and launched a coconut at a customer, hitting

him on the head. Two more nuts were launched at cashiers before Mr Wtambe ordered staff to hand over their money. "He was extremely accurate," recalled the bank manager. "I knew immediately he was a professional and succumbed to his every wish." The sum of \$6,000 was handed over and, with a final flurry of nuts, Mr Wtambe ran into the street where, unfortunately, he was crushed by a passing truck. "It's funny," said the driver. "Last week I hit a man carrying a bag of mangoes." ♦

Family Reunion rekindles old flames

Talk about your dramatic family reunions. In Cheshire, weightlifter Andrew 'Splodge' Rogerson was surprised to receive a call from a sibling he didn't know he had. "He came on the line and said 'I'm your brother'," explained Mr Rogerson. "I said, 'In a religious sense?' But he said 'No, I was adopted at birth.' Then we started crying." Equally emotional was the meeting of Brazilian Raoul Garzas with long-lost father Hector. Mr Garzas, 31, of Sao Paulo, had spent three years trying to locate his missing parent, eventually asking a TV station to aid him in his

search. "He seemed so genuine," explained one executive. "So we broadcast a message urging Mr Garzas to come forward." This he eventually did, and an on-air reunion was arranged. "Father and son entered from separate sides," recalled the show's producer. "They were wearing matching suits, and embraced. It was beautiful." The moment was spoiled, however, when Garzas junior produced a gun and shot his father dead. "I hated him," he confessed to a horrified audience. ♦

Never, ever borrow a hippopotamus

Kidnappers are forsaking humans in favour of animals, but not always with great results. In Sacramento, California desperado Luther Bee kidnapped a pygmy hippopotamus. Mr Bee, 32, formed his scheme after neighbour Gladys Cain told him her hippo Nebuchadnezzar was "my very life blood." Choosing an afternoon when Mrs Cain was absent Bee duly abducted the corpulent creature and secreted it in his bedroom, demanding a \$100,000 ransom for its return. Things, however, began to go wrong almost

immediately. "It did massive turds on the bed," said a disgusted Mr Bee. "The duvet was ruined. Then it started roaring. We had to tell the neighbours my wife had tonsillitis." Over the next 24 hours Nebuchadnezzar ate Mrs Bee's jewellery, charged the bedroom door down six times and repeatedly tried to mate with his captor, who eventually phoned the authorities and confessed everything. "He's a naughty boy," admitted Nebuchadnezzar's adoring owner. ♦

Terrorizing sharks down and deep

Another under-domesticated animal incident occurred recently in Australia, where plumber Ben Hart keeps a shark in his pool to scare off ducks. "They shit themselves," he sniggered. So did Bernie and Martha Sennacharibs, who recently spent three days in a San Diego pool being terrorized by a 20-foot man-eater. The Sennacharibs both in their 80s and chronically short-sighted, had gone for a dip in their neighbour's pool, after the latter had departed on holiday. Barely had they entered the water, however, when Mr Sennacharib spotted a huge shark lurking in the deep end. "Bernie whispered,

'SHARK'," recalled Mrs Sennacharib. "I said 'sharks live in the sea,' but Bernie said 'Clinton's president; anything could happen.' Then I started crying." The petrified pensioners attempted to get out, but as soon as they moved, the shark "started bobbing insanely", so they stayed where they were, clutching each other and singing Perry Como songs. They remained thus for 72 hours until the pool owners returned and informed them the ferocious fish was actually a novelty toy. "Last year Bernie mistook our grandson for a fridge," added a po-faced Mrs Sennacharib. ♦

Above articles compiled by Paul Sussman in *The Big Issue*, London England's street-sold magazine.

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SPARE
CHANGE

JANUARY 1

1996

VENDOR • Profile

Evelyn Paquette

B Y C W A T S O N

Evelyn chuckles about this article being a surprise for her sister Jeannie who now sells **Spare Change** in Edmonton. Hello from Calgary, Jeannie!

Evelyn's sweet spirit and caring heart often prompt her to leave her spot outside the Court House on 7th Avenue S.E. to help others.

"She only has to hear that someone is down or upset and off she goes to find them," says **Spare Change** distributor Ed Greanya. Most of the young girls on the street call Evelyn "Mom" and she likes that and feels accepted. Helping others often cuts into her selling time so she's very glad to have people stop to buy the paper.

"Selling **Spare Change** is a whole new experience for me," she says. "It's a challenge but I'm friendly and I can do it. I can talk to people. Some people see what it's like (to be on the street) and they're willing to help. Some give you money without taking a paper, sometimes."

It has been about a year since Evelyn (44) began to turn her life around. Born in Athabasca, she was "somewhere in the middle" of six sisters and four brothers. She went into foster care at 14 and her last home was in Edmonton. Evelyn quit high school at 15-1/2 discouraged because she knew she could learn but couldn't keep up with the others. She says, "I started on alcohol when I was 18. I used to say I'd never, ever, be like my parents who had alcohol problems." She makes a face.

After more than 15 years of drinking and living on



the streets, something happened. "I was so mad! I wasn't even drinking when I broke my ankle and had to go to hospital. That's when I decided: 'Enough is enough! I can't live my life on the street any more!'"

"The Mustard Seed gave me a home and I got a lot of encouragement from them. They taught me and gave me the strength to grow," she says. "I took anger management courses there and I committed my life to the Lord. Now I help the volunteer co-ordinator,

Sue, train volunteers there. I'm going back to school in the fall next year (Plains Indians Cultural Survival School) but first I'm taking upgrading at Col. Walker Community School."

Building up her confidence, giving her support and encouragement is a Mexican friend Evelyn calls "Spanky", from the character in Little Rascals who likes to joke around. "He's a special person in my life. I look forward to seeing him almost every day. I think the Lord sent him into my life to help me. He has lots of goals. He works as a floor stripper and carpet layer. He tells me about Mexico and his family there. It has always been my dream to go to Mexico and see how people live."

Another dream is to run a Christian day care centre. There is so much abuse and violence today, she says. "I think that all parents want to get love and care for their children. They're so innocent. It's time to start loving the children more." And she wouldn't

charge parents too much, she says.

Evelyn would like to thank Bonnie at the Family Resource Centre who "always waits for me to come by and buys the paper from me." She would like to visit Jeannie in Edmonton sometime. And, most of all, her words catch in her throat, "I want my family to look at me for what I am today and respect me," she says, wiping away a few tears. ♦

The people who bring you **Spare Change**

This newspaper exists because of the efforts of the people who sell it to you on the street, the vendors. For our vendors **Spare Change** is a job that helps them to be independent and self-employed. Each issue we highlight one of our vendors in Vendor Profile to let you know a little bit about the people who bring you **Spare Change**. ♦

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- I will vend only in areas that are authorized

All **Spare Change** vendors are required to wear an ID badge (contents above) and abide by a code of conduct. If you have any comments about our vendors, phone our distribution manager in your city (see page 7).



The things they say

"I'm just a foothill beside that mountain range."

— Nobel Prize winner, *Seamus Heaney on past winners*

"I've been a silly willy."

— *Will Carling on the break-up of his marriage*

"I came into politics to build a fairer society. Now it's all I can to stay awake."

— *British Labour Mp Austin Mitchell*

"I was on marijuana the whole time."

— *Brian Wilson on his life with the Beach Boys*

LETTERS

Yes, the stories are true Virginia!

The IN THE NEWS column on page 2 is very popular in this newspaper. But, people have been asking: "Are the stories really true? It couldn't be true, could it?" So we wrote Paul Sussman in London, England to let him know how popular his snips from world news are, and to ask: "Did she really bite off his nose?" Paul wrote us back:

At last! A fan! 4,000 miles away, maybe, and in a town I couldn't place on a map if my life depended on it, but a fan nonetheless. Thank you. Thank you.

I was tremendously flattered to receive your letter; and glad – not to mention surprised – that

your readers find some of the In The News (New of the World) stories amusing. I can assure you that all of the tales are true,



although, as you have probably guessed, embellished with a bit of English toilet humour. Please feel free to cut or change as you see fit.

I have, of course, heard of Spare Change, – the word being it's one of the best street

papers available – and the word was pretty much confirmed by the copies you sent. I particularly liked Allison Kydd's writing, and also your cartoons, which are considerably funnier than anything we run in England.

If there's anything at all I can do to help out please get in touch, via The Big Issue. I should warn you I'm a terminally lazy, disorganized failure.

I hope you're well, and thanks again for your letter. My mother has framed it, and wiles away what's left of her life showing it to obscure relatives.

Regards,

PAUL SUSSMAN

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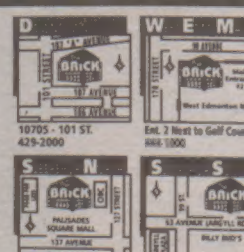
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LETTERS

And a Merry Christmas to you

I stood at Kingsway Garden Mall as I do every day awaiting my ride home and I see some familiar faces, some tired faces but the one face that seems to hold in my thoughts is the face of someone trying to make an honest living and the hurt of having to tell others to have a great Christmas when he knows his will be hard.

He sells a paper called *Spare Change* and really that's all it costs is just a few coins, just *Spare change*. The reason I am writing this is because it's Christmas and is it not better to give than to receive? Doesn't it feel good knowing you have helped that person have at least one good day?

Today was the all time pain for me and embarrassment. Two people I was sure would help him looked at him with shame, but not once did they open their heavy purses to offer him *spare change* instead my aunts walked the other way and he clearly said in a nice tone "Merry Christmas, Ladies". I think if it was me I would have said something different but it was not me...it was him and he said it with sincere care.

I purchased this paper and the joy in his eyes made me feel even better. Hey, at least he is working, not many of us would stand in this weather to sell papers but he does and he deserves our respect.

Hey, buddy, can you spare some change?

LORETTA DAUBERT
EDMONTON

er, some treat him like trash. Still he holds his head high, in his own way.

Part of his chapter of surviving was his love. The love of a couple, on skid row, is made up of many elements. One is the commitment of two people, which could last as long as a "Big Bear", or till the street



swallows them. Love comes as cheap as a soaked rag, or as expensive as an eight ball. But you still have a good chance of waking up with empty pockets. He learned to love, to love from the heart of the street. No one will take him seriously enough to think he can love like them. His only love is the monkey on his back.

The inner-city's version of a drive-by shooting is when the middle class drive down 96 Street and point their fingers at him, like a judge passing sentence.

He's seen best of friends and family members die at their own hands and with help from others. Death in the inner-city is just too close to one's own reality. He must take his pain and suffering to a level that is alien to him. He's at the point where he may shed a tear without a drink in his system yet. He realizes he must get high or drunk to get rid of this torture. The only drawback is that his addiction will bring those emotions out, but without control.

He's walking down the street and sniffing his mind away. He recognizes someone he once loved, probably still did, till then. The next thing he sees is blackness, he realized that he had just been piped across the head. Standing there, dazed and bleeding, he receives a fist to his jaw. Lying on the concrete, eyes open to the deep blue sky, and she moves in to block the view. He looks into the eyes of the woman he once held, while she starts to boot-fuck him in the ribs. Finally help arrives, and they manhandle him into the meat wagon.

He will probably remember, for the rest of his life, the few friends who helped him. Unfortunately he will also remember his body aching in pain and the woman who caused it. With that vision burned in his mind, revenge is best served cold. ♦

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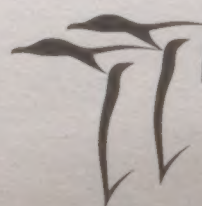
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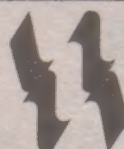
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Best served cold

SPARE
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1996

He's just a man surviving in the urban jungle. He's been taught to take care of only one thing, himself. As he grew older, he realized that his only escape from the misery was his addiction.

Through the years he survived with his talent and addiction. He has carved himself a chapter in the concrete history of Boyle Street. The inner-city folks treat him like a big broth-

Helping People to Help Themselves

BY ALLISON KYDD

On the chilly streets of Edmonton, Vicente Calmo and Domingo Chei look like ordinary men. They're both slight of build with 'Latin' or 'Native' colouring – dark hair and eyes and olive skin – and they both seem a little shy. They shiver in the cold, just like the rest of us.

One wouldn't guess just from looking at them that they have stories of heroism to tell, that they live in constant danger and are homeless in the country where they were born. Yet Domingo and Vicente are refugees in their own land of Guatemala, and they do live in fear, hiding from the military government which should be protecting them.

Still, things have been worse. Ten years ago Guatemalan peasants were being massacred in large numbers by the military. Some fled to Mexico; others moved whole communities to hide in the mountains; still others made temporary homes in the rainforest (jungle).

Vicente tells a personal story. He came back from a visit to another village – he was courting his wife at the



▲ Standing in front of a painting of "Martha Charley" are from left to right: Vicente Calmo, Lori Petruskewich (their Edmonton translator) and Domingo Chei.

• SEE PAGE 7 •



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Sombrilla Refugee Support Group

• FROM PAGE 6 •

time – to find that everyone had gone. It was ten days before he was able to contact his family, who had run away to the mountains.

Domingo was in his village when the army arrived. He and his wife and parents became afraid and moved from their community as well. They didn't

escape the danger, however. Within the next few years, both his father and his brother were killed. Still, many have survived and are attempting to build new lives.

At first the new communities of the displaced were isolated from each other, connected only by the messengers who risked their lives travelling

between. Sometimes it took them ten or fifteen days to get from place to place, since they were on foot and had to keep hidden. Not only the army threatened these messengers; there were also natural dangers, such as floods, to contend with. Domingo and Vicente say that many died.

Vicente's community faces new difficulties. Their old homes are being settled by refugees returning from Mexico. After living ten years in the jungle, they will never be able to go home now, since they don't want to make war on their own people. In their temporary homes, they need many of the necessities: health care and equipment, medicine, strong roofs for their houses, potable water, machines to help them in the fields and training to use the machines,

schools and training for their teachers.

Both Vicente and Domingo talk about their goals for the future. First of all, they want peace and to be rid of the oppressive control by the army. They want people to be able to travel without fear of threats and kidnappings. They "want to get rid of the misery", they say.

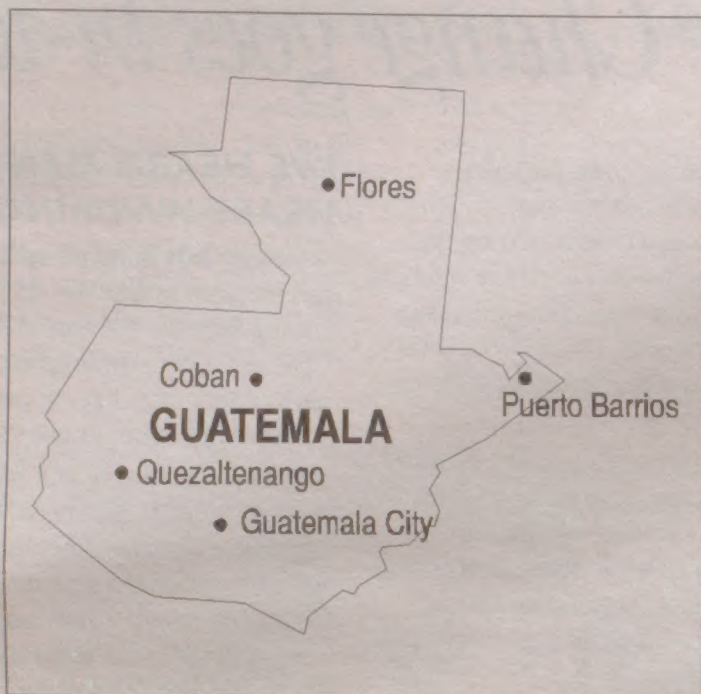
There is new hope in Guatemala. A national

election is being held, and there are a few candidates who support the cause of the Communities of Population in Resistance (CPR) to which Domingo and Vicente both belong. It is because of this organization that they are here, and with the help of the Sombrilla Refugee Support Group, the Wild Rose Foundation

of Alberta and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Vicente and Domingo are here in Canada to give information on the situation of their people, the Mayan indigenous people in Guatemala. After their tour, which lasts only a few weeks, they will return to their families and villages, trusting that they will still be there, trusting as well that this trip may have made a difference, may have made a few more people care what happens to them.

Those who would like to help or to get more information, please contact Sombrilla's executive director, John Chan, at 420-6792, or president, Rick Berube, at 449-5161 (h) or 454-8515 (w). ♦



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EDITORIAL • Opinion

Twice a Month!

Spare Change goes bi-weekly

The time has finally come for Spare Change to come out biweekly. Yes, that's right! Two issues a month starting this month. In two weeks, January 15, there will be a new issue. The increased frequency of the paper is here by popular demand. The newspaper vendors say the market is there; if they have a new paper more often, they are sure they can sell it.

There is also a price increase to the vendors of 10 cents more a copy, now up to 60 cents each, less if they buy volume for discounts. Producing the paper twice as often costs considerably more. In general the vendors are not objecting to the price hike, if it gets everyone a new issue more often.

THANKS FOR COMPUTERS

The Spare Change appeal for computers has brought out some real generosity. We now have six older computers that aspiring writers can work on. Thanks to Operation Friendship, Alex McCaughan and all those others who have contributed.

SOME HEART-WARMING STORIES

The new year, it's here! Let's hope it continues to bring happiness to all those involved with Spare Change. It's been a challenging time and very eventful I'd like to thank all who have made it possible. There are so many people to thank, but most important are the vendors themselves and you the readers who support them.

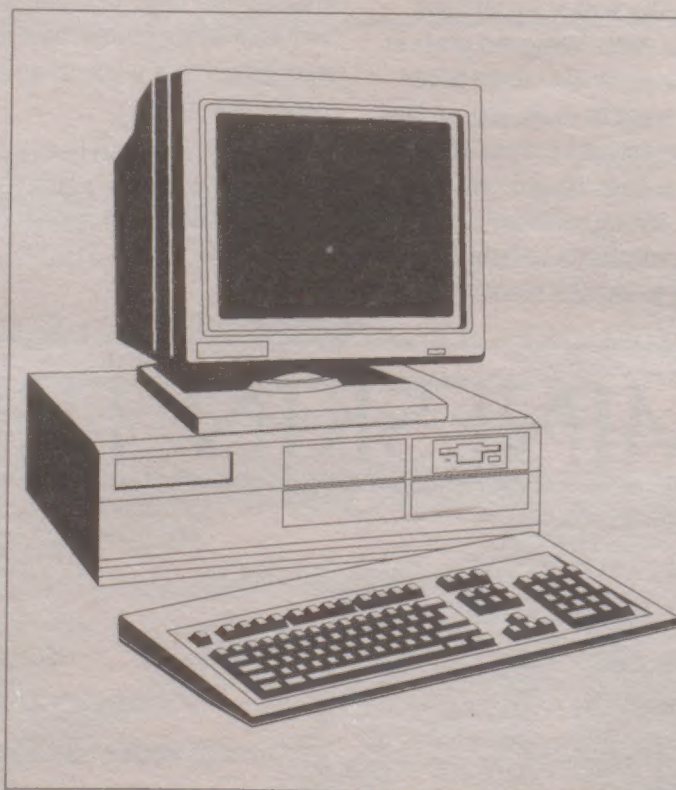
Purchasing the paper contributes to the community and to being more consciously aware of poverty and poverty-related issues. Paper sales have almost doubled over the past year, and we hope they continue to grow. The success of the paper can be attributed to a number of things, but most of all I see it as the vendors selling the paper day after day and the people who purchase it.

I'VE HEARD MANY HEART-WARMING STORIES:

An elderly lady bundled up in warm clothing and prepared to face the -25 winter weather was leaving Safeway; she approached the Spare Change vendor standing outside the doors and handed him three bags of groceries: "I picked you up a few items, I hope you can use them."

Later, when the vendor had explained what had happened to him he said "I was so grateful, I remember so many times how humiliating it was patiently waiting in line at the food bank and looking up to count how many more people were ahead of me. Thanks to Spare Change and the people that support me I won't have to experience that again."

A man in a suit walking through a downtown pedway approached a vendor and asked "What are you working towards?" The vendor responded: "Winter coats for my children." He handed the vendor a twenty-dollar bill and said "take care of yourself too, it's important" and walked away.



Last Christmas a vendor was given a little box wrapped in colourful paper in exchange for a newspaper. The vendor took the present and placed it under his two-foot Christmas tree. On Christmas Day he opened what was the only present under the tree and to this day he proudly wears and displays his watch. These kind acts as well as many others, like a simple smile,

gesture or acknowledgement to the vendors can and have made a difference. They can provide encouragement and give vendors a sense of self-worth to continue to go on and develop themselves further. ♦

Welcome to 1996!

This could be the year the chickens come home to roost

Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves

Our governments have been, er, retrenching on the social services they provide. And, so far anyway, things must seem to them as though they've gone rather well. It's taken a little time but perhaps now the cuts, and the pain they cause, are sinking in. In Alberta a small wildcat strike by 60 desperate hospital laundry workers got a lot of public sympathy and got settled quickly by the government. It could just be the beginning.

"We don't want to see anyone freeze to death on the street." A coalition of social agencies recently held a news conference to talk about housing problems. They released a report showing that welfare housing allowances don't come close to real rents. They pointed out there is no government money for new social housing, subsidized affordable housing. They talked about two to five year waiting lists for families who need subsidized housing. They pointed out that one in five

Canadians pays up to 30 per cent of their income for their housing and that one in eight Canadians, and those are mainly children, just hasn't got a proper home.

The Quality of Life Commission, a group of people looking into the impact of cuts on daily life, recently held its final hearing, a large public one. They gathered a group of spokespeople to give presentations and heard some powerful stories. Isabella Gorodetski, a newcomer to Canada, explained how her 85 year-

old mother is trying to work because she can't get a pension or allowance. Irene Apon helps run a church-supported organization called Neighbourlink. She talked about how often she had to find people to go in and help take care of single moms who are ill and at home alone with their children. She related stories of older people waiting for rides so they can go to a clinic, and of "desperate people who don't have the bus fare to go to the food bank." She explained how

Home Care Services were referring people to her organization because they didn't have the budget to help take care of people, many of them elderly. "If you're a single mom, if you come home from the hospital and you have no one else in the city, who do you call?" she asked.

Irene's little two-person operation had fielded over 2,300 calls for help in 1995, more than 300 in November alone. Things have been

getting much worse, she says. Those 300 calls in one month were more than their organization had in all of 1993.

Cut, cut, chop, chop, the government says its deficit is getting smaller, and everyone is fine. But no, not everyone is fine. Many people are getting worse, the cutback chickens are hatching and now they are coming home to roost and it is affecting many more people. ♦

KEITH WILEY



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HEATHER STUMP

Spare Change Distribution Coordinator, Edmonton ♦

Selling Sam



Brrreeaarr! It's cold on the corner. I should have stayed home and hibernated this year.

Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves

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Spare Change is published to provide an income opportunity for economically marginalized people in our society while communicating about their issues to the public.

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A few Thousand dollars,

10

SPARE

CHANGE

JANUARY 1

1996

A fresh juice bar. Import-export to the Pacific Rim. Tailoring, alterations and clothing design. Technology export to Eastern Europe and Central America. Desktop publishing. These people have the business ideas, and they talk about what it's going to take to implement them as they gather around a table at the Micro-Business Development Program at Edmonton's Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (MCN).

They face some serious obstacles. Teresa needs \$80-100,000 in equity to finance her project that would have offices in both Edmonton and Poland. Manuel and Edgar need phone and fax access to contacts in Central America. Don needs a moratorium on bigger companies having exclusive rights to the supply of beverages to health clubs and nursing homes. These are the kinds of obstacles that must be overcome by people who are trying to find their way in a world that has increasingly polarized itself from social assistance on one end to corporate big business on the other.

Bob Cote is here with his ideas too, and he's no newcomer to the trials and pitfalls of running a small business. Bob describes the burnout he experienced after running his father's farm and a restaurant business in Valleyview for fourteen years. "I had to get out somehow," he says, "I had no support for the pressures I was facing; basically, I cracked."

After being out of the business world since 1986, Bob landed in a basement room full of computers at the Mustard Street Church last March. "I was placed here with ACE, Alberta Community Employment," recalls Bob. "It gave me the desire to learn something new. I've always loved challenges, and now my goal is to learn computers inside and out." Bob spends most of his time recruiting for and servicing the computer network Enabel, a system designed to provide information to individuals and agencies involved in helping others. His enthusiasm for Enabel is evident: Bob's eyes light up as he clicks around the screen to show off its various features. "My job is to get all the Edmonton churches and community organizations on-line: so far over 250 have joined."

Bob's work at Mustard Seed has started him thinking about running his own business again. "I'm getting some drive back now but it's a slow process. I really didn't feel anything for a long time. I have a 10 year-old son who keeps me going, but not much else. I know I have the basic mentality to run a business, I just have to settle on something that looks viable, and go with it."

From his experience with Enabel, Bob feels he should be able to market some of his computer skills. "I've learned to take these things apart and rebuild them; I could easily make a business out of it, and I've made lots of contacts through my work here. I also have an accounting background and could set up an income tax business so easily if I owned one of these things."

Since the ACE program runs out for Bob on January 12, he's feeling the pressure to get going with some of these ideas. MCN's Microbusiness program will give him the support he needs in order to update his business knowledge and come up with a workable plan. But, like other participants, one of Bob's biggest needs is to access some kind of bank loan in order to finance start-up costs, like buying his own computer. "I'm not sure they'd give me anything now," says Bob. "I've been out of it for so many years, and the banks aren't willing to give much to someone with my record."

Since starting the Micro-Business training program in 1992, the Mennonite Centre has recognized this need for financing and has established an agreement with Capital City Savings in which participants are able to access up to \$5,000 loans using MCN's capital as security. "We also encourage Borrowers' Circles," explains the Micro-Business Program Director, Webb Dussome. "Two or three participants can pool their resources and sign for one person's loan. Then, as that person makes good on their payments, the bank will be willing to lend to the others. We believe that if someone has a good business idea and the stick-to-it-iveness to make it happen, they should be given a fair chance."

A fair chance: that's what the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers has been about since its inception in 1981. Focussing on new immigrants and refugees, the Mennonite Centre offers everything from Citizenship classes to ESL courses to Counselling for Survivors of Torture and Trauma. "Initially, the Micro-Business Training Program was geared only to immigrants and refugees," Dussome explains. "But then those participants started telling us that they needed more interaction with local Edmontonians who are going through a similar process. It helps them learn about the cultural factors that influence business here, which can be much different from the factors they're used to."

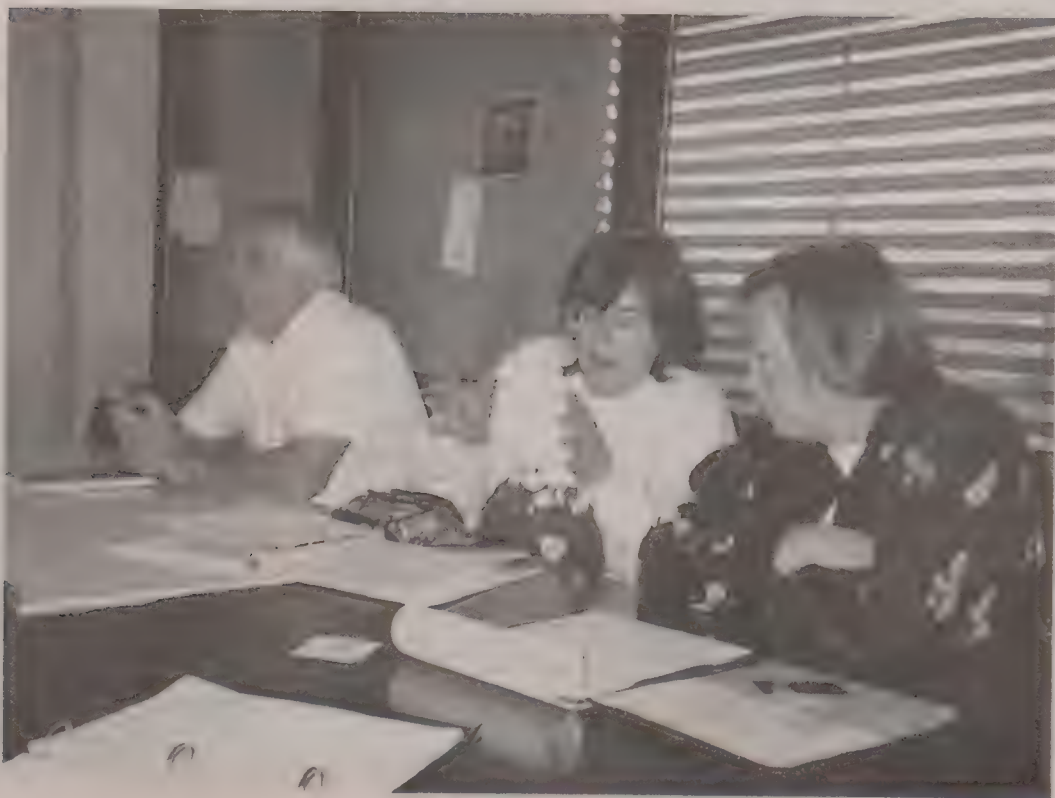
The MCN program now includes a focus on women, visible minorities, aboriginal and disabled persons with low or moderate incomes. "We're reaching out more directly to our own, inner-city communities now," explains Webb. "Most people come with a business idea already in mind but we ask that they attend a two-day orientation at the beginning before deciding to commit to the program." Funded in part



Some Ideas, Some Initiative

A new business is born

by Mary Jane Buchanan



by Human Resources Canada, the five-week sessions started weekdays in November and will be offered evenings in January. A nominal deposit is required which is fully refunded when participants complete the program.

Gulhan Girbay is registered for the session starting in January. "I came from Turkey four and a half years ago and my biggest problem in getting a job has been learning English. I worked for some relatives doing childcare for the first two years, but it didn't give me any chance to learn English or practice my trade, which is pattern-making." Gulhan took some ESL courses and then Career Development for Women through the Mennonite Centre. "During that course, I was placed at a Bridal Salon for three weeks doing gown alterations. After that I got a job at a drycleaner's again doing clothing repairs and alterations. I liked the responsibility I had there of running the place, but it still wasn't what I wanted to be doing."

Gulhan worked for seven years as design and pattern-maker for a European clothing company in Turkey. "I love to think of a certain design or look at a piece of fabric and make it into a wearable pattern," says Gulhan. "But there are no opportunities for this kind of job, because all the clothes here are imported." Instead of giving up her skills, Gulhan now dreams of marketing her skills independently. "I need about \$2,500 to get started. That would be to get set up in our basement with an industrial sewing machine, a serger and proper ironing equipment. I plan to make a few samples and build up my customers gradually. It will be called The Golden Needle."

Gulhan's husband shares her enthusiasm, but talks about some of the obstacles she faces. "Canadians import clothes because they're cheap," he says. "But that will have to change when factory workers overseas begin to challenge the working conditions and poor pay that keep our clothing prices down. Then Gulhan's skills will be needed locally." The Girbays are hoping that Gulhan's participation in the MCN program will give her some ideas of how to research a market for her product. "For now, I'm trying to earn a little money by selling jewellery for a company in different malls during the holidays," relates Gulhan. "I'm expecting a baby in April, so we are earning money from home after the baby is born."

Competing in global, multi-million dollar markets with locally-based skills and products: this is the challenge facing any individual with creative ideas and an entrepreneurial spirit in today's economy.

The odds seem overwhelming, but may very well be beaten by people like Gulhan and Bob. With the support of MCN behind them, they're doing their best to contribute their own unique talents to the marketplace, and earn a viable income at the same time. ♦

Fashion for free

Contemporary chic in a VERY low-cost market

BY SPARE CHANGE FASHION EDITORS
LINDA DUMONT & STEVE GARFIN

The second-hand clothes market is booming. But the second-hand clothes shops, even if they are selling a lot of clothes very cheaply, aren't really there for people who are struggling with survival issues. There's no budget for clothing when there's no money. For many people there is no cash to spare after taking care of the most pressing needs. Housing: you need an address, somewhere warm to stay. Next of course are all those personal necessities: shampoo, soap, shaving and personal hygiene items. Then you need money for buses, especially if you are taking a course or looking for work. Food sort of comes after that, because there are places where one can eat for free. Many inner city missions provide lunch of some sort after their services, and there are outdoor soup lines and the soup kitchens. The food banks are also there as a backup for securing food. Clothing comes pretty far down on the list of necessities. And there is free clothing available, much of it of the same quality as in what's available in the resale stores.

Here we have our models, Steve and Linda, in some of the latest in fashion, clothing that costs nothing.

Steve, for a casual look, has chosen a cream golf shirt (Hope Mission) teamed with purple

sweat pants (The Mission-Jesus Cares) and diamond patterned socks (The Mustard Seed Church). (1)

Linda, for her at-home look, wears Northern Reflections leggings (Humans on Welfare) with a cozy hooded fleece top (The Mission). (2)

Outerwear for Steve features a pile-lined jacket with winter boots (The Mission), drill work pants (Hope Mission), and a plaid shirt (Humans on Welfare). (3)

Linda wears pile-lined suede boots (The Mission), and a hooded pile-lined denim jacket (Humans on Welfare). The hand-embroidered Ukrainian blouse (Alex Taylor School), is worn with women's loose fit Levis (House of Refuge Mission). (4)

For his at-work look, Steve combines a tweed sports coat (The Mission) with a shirt and tie (The Mustard Seed Church), dress slacks (Humans on Welfare), and dress shoes (Hope Mission). (5)

For work, Linda wears a basic black T-shirt (Christ's Love Ministry), under an acid-washed, rhinestone-trimmed jean jacket (Humans on Welfare), with acid-washed blue jeans (garbage bag by dumpster) and Reeboks (The Mission). (6) ♦



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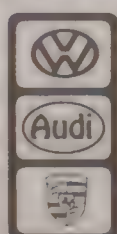
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12

SPARE
CHANGE
JANUARY 1
1996

CRASH!

Disabled activist drives for better accessibility

First he crashes his scooter into the Light Rail Transit car and now he gets a Certificate of Recognition for it! A friend and booster of *Spare Change*, Kim Lazaruk was recognized by the Easter Seal Ability Council at a presentation evening last fall. The Council gave Kim the Certificate for his efforts for accessible transit for adults and children with physical disabilities.

Kim was very concerned about the accessibility of Edmonton's Light Rail Transit cars, so he hosted a demonstration to illustrate the problem back in 1992. The floor of the train car was just a notch above the waiting platform and that made it hard for people in scooters or wheel chairs to get on board. In fact, with TV cameras rolling, Kim demonstrated the run his scooter had to take to jump the "curb" into the train and careen right across the car. "Yeah, I took a run at it," he says, "the front wheel went up in the air about 6 inches. I got in but I hit the other side of the LRT car." His scooter was dam-

aged, but Kim's point was made.

Kim continues to be an activist for accessibility, as he motors around town on this 3-wheeled scooter. He is the vice-chair of the DATS (Disabled Transit Service) Advisory Group and he's concerned about what "fiscal restraint" is doing to DATS. Right now in the winter, Kim's concerned about making bus shelters accessible to people using scooters and chairs, and getting snow cleared away from them. "It's not bad when it's cold," he says "but when it's mushy it's really difficult." ♦



Kim Lazaruk being recognized by the Easter Seal Ability Council.



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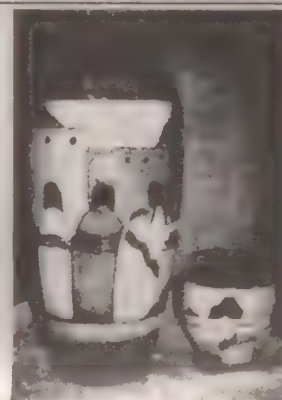
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Staffan Gallery

Looking for unique art to
compliment your decor?

Then you should make the drive to Staffan Gallery in Willingdon. There you'll discover the southwestern-inspired ceramics created by Julie Gawryliuk, who has been involved in ceramics for 26 years and a certified teacher for the past 18. Gawryliuk's collection of decorative vases reflects her fascination with the scenery and

local colour of Arizona. The vases feature scenes that are hand-drawn and hand-etched, then painted and accented with 22 karat gold.

To go with the southwestern look the gallery offers ceramic accent pieces including cattle and buffalo skulls, lizards, snakes and large cacti.

In addition, Staffan Gallery has the Canadian Heritage Collection, a line which features Canadian scenes, also accented with 22 karat gold. The collection now includes eight pieces and a new one is added every six months or so.

These fine ceramics are available by special order in any desired colour. In both collections the middle to larger pieces are all signed and numbered and a certificate of authenticity is provided. Lay-away is available.

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B

SPARE

CHANGE

JANUARY

1996



Emily

BY ALLISON KYDD



VIA THE GREYHOUND BUS

Tough to refuse a free cup of coffee & co.

14

The story this far: Emily has left her lover, by way of the Greyhound bus, and that's not all the grief she has to remember. She also has to watch out for herself in the present. A woman travelling alone is fair game for just about anything.

Long before the door of the coach opened and the long-distance passengers began to reboard, Emily wished she had taken the driver's advice. So, when the pesky fellow from across the aisle appeared with a free cup of coffee - well, it would have been tough to refuse his company.

Besides, he'd obviously combed his hair, tucked his shirt into his belt and was trying to make an impression. She couldn't help feeling touched. Maybe he only wanted a little conversation after all. And she was getting tired of being alone.

So he sat beside her and talked, practically all the way to Kenora, and this time she didn't refuse to let him buy her coffee and a muffin at the lunch counter. She owed him something for keeping her mind off Marty and all her other troubles for almost two hours.

When the bus was loading up again, Emily's companion seemed to take it for granted they were still sharing a seat. Fortunately, he dozed off when he found she'd stopped listening to him.

After a while, she went to sleep again as well, and back came Marty.

The custody battle - which wasn't really a battle because she'd already lost before it started - was only official when Aaron was about four years old. They'd put her on the witness stand and asked her questions.

"How old were you in your first pregnancy? ... What kind of mother gives her baby away to strangers?"

"How can you say you're a good mother when you didn't feed or clean your son for a day and a half, and you can't even look after yourself?"

They kept on at her like that until Emily refused to speak to them.

What could she say? Could she tell them about the celebration when she first told Marty "they" were pregnant? Could she tell them how it was like a sacred bond when he'd called her "his woman"? Could she tell them anything about how it was when they first lived in that little shack?

The bed had been the only comfortable spot in the place. Martin Jr. wasn't the least bit handy, and neither was Emily. Any time they attempted to fix anything, they made it worse, so mostly they didn't try anymore. Kettles leaked, cups were missing their handles, floorboards creaked under linoleum worn black on all the high-traffic areas, such as around the bed and the table and by the doorstep.

Cracked window panes let in the heat and the cold or were repaired with strips of once-white adhesive tape now turned gray. The place always had that cloying smell of mice as well because both the wooden siding and the cement foundation which anchored it to the ground were full of cracks and holes.

And, since they both loved the earth too much to attempt to kill any living creature, anything which ventured inside was bound to stay.

Usually, since they were in agreement, this attitude didn't create any problems. There'd been one fateful morning however; in fact, it was the morning after their celebration for the baby, when they'd spent the whole day making love and making plans for him.

Marty'd woken up first and was heading for the can. Suddenly he was in a rage, and it took her a while to figure out what was wrong. Then she saw the butter dish. It'd been left on the table, and a scattering of mouse droppings showed where visitors had feasted through the night. Another time they might have laughed to see the neat black trail of appreciation.

It was the first time she'd seen Marty the hero blow his cool. He hurled the offending butter dish and all, into the old canaghana hedge which showed the way through the knee-high grass to the outhouse.

"You squaw," he hissed, "you lazy, no-good bum."

It was as if a mask had suddenly dropped, and she stood there gaping with disbelief. She held out her hand, partly for reassurance, partly to comfort him. He pushed her away. And Emily, who'd always been so tough was suddenly as thin-skinned as tissue paper and went back to bed crying. That meant two days of work missed, so she lost her job.

Not that it was much of a job - waitress in the coffee shop of the nearby highway motel - but it bought the gro-

ceries while they were waiting for Martin Jr.'s novel to be finished and hunted down by a publisher.

Fortunately, Marty's parents could afford and were in the habit of sending them a little something when they were desperate.

Emily's parents, of course, were something else. Her father, well, first of all, he was dead now. But she'd hardly known him anyway. He hadn't been around much, and when he was even his woman and children avoided him. Of course, as her sister, Teresa had said, their mother's life was easier now that she had a new man. But that didn't mean Emily was about to go to her out of the blue asking for a handout.

One of the few times Emily'd seen her mother in the last twenty-five years was when they'd all been invited to Marty's parents' place. Emily hadn't thought it was such a hot idea, but she always went along with Marty. And he was on some kind of equality kick.

Besides, she'd maybe wanted to show off a little too. "My man's got money; I must be going somewhere." That fancy house said it all.

It'd turned out to be a disaster, just

like Emily'd known it would. In fact, she hardly even spoke to her mother because within a half hour of getting there Tanyss Maurait quietly took offense and left the fancy Holstein home and the rich part of town.

It all had to do with Martin Sr. coming home late from work and not being prepped by his wife. Marty's mother was making the final preparations for dinner and Martin started mixing the martinis just as he would for any dinner guests.

As he was about to offer alcohol to Sam and Tanyss, Dorothy threw him a tight-lipped, significant glance which Tanyss intercepted. In a way that belied her quiet, self-effacing manner and her ill-fitting Fortrel pant suit, the middle-aged native woman got up from the French Provincial settee and announced that she wouldn't be staying for "supper" after all.

Her new mate, Samuel, looked disappointed. Emily figured they probably couldn't afford to eat roast beef and dumplings very often, not to mention English trifle. Her mother wouldn't even know how to make that. Disappointed or not, Sam wasn't leaving his Tanyss to find her way home alone.

From what Emily'd seen, Sam was pretty easy-going. It could be that he actually believed his life was enriched by many different kinds of brothers. Still, if he had to choose, he knew his priorities.

Years later, when Emily thought back on that miserable little afternoon, she wished she'd followed Sam. But then too she'd missed her chance.

If only she hadn't been trying so hard to prove she was good enough for the Holsteins. If only she hadn't been ashamed of her mother, sitting there in the Holstein's expensive but tasteful living-room. At first refusing to take off her thread-bare coat. Then that Fortrel suit!

Emily'd turned her back on her mother because she couldn't stop herself. She was that much in Marty's power.

One thing Emily didn't do according to plan, however, was go through with the home birthing of their baby. It would've fit perfectly with their "natural" lifestyle, but when she was pregnant she began to have all these horrible dreams and imaginings. She dreamed about mice, about bugs infesting tender baby flesh. She became obsessed with

the need to get away to some place clean and safe.

Of course, when they escaped by going home to Marty's parents, it wasn't that safe either. Not for Emily anyway.

The hand on her thigh brought Emily back to the present with a shudder.

"You must be having some dream," he said, his face close enough that his tobacco breath tickled her ear.

Oh God, he's going to get affectionate after all. I knew I was taking a chance being friendly.

"Take your hand off my leg," she said without answering him. "You forgotten where your seat is?"

He pulled back as if genuinely hurt. "Why so unfriendly all of a sudden?" he wanted to know. She almost felt sorry for him. He must be really lonely to be this persistent.

"Well, tell me if you're in the mood for company later."

Not likely, loser. ♦

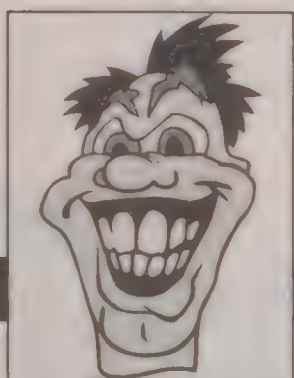
(End of installment five)

SPARE

CHANGE

JANUARY 1

1996



Sparky
BY SPARKY COY

Twinkies

I was walking past a barber shop this morning when I started thinking about twinkies.

Having grown up in a small prairie town called Flatt, Alberta (the Compost Capital of Canada), I had few luxuries as a child. My first job was changing the population sign whenever someone died, was born, moved in or moved out. When that job was lost due to early Getty cutbacks, I continued to repaint the sign as a volunteer. The last time I changed it was when I too had to ultimately leave Flatt.

One luxury I was afforded, however, was the occasional comic book. Sadly, I remember few of the plots now, but I do recall the first time I actually read anything aloud. It was from a comic book. It was from a page in the back which featured the Incredible Hulk saving the world for Twinkies. An advertisement.

I didn't know, though, that it was an advertisement, and since at that time I believed much of the world outside of Flatt to be populated by costumed avengers with incredible powers, I naturally assumed that these superheroes were operating not out of a sense of goodness or justice, but out of a craving for some Twinkies.

Yes, Twinkies. Golden sponge cakes with rich, creamy filling.

Or Hostess Fruit Pies. Delicious fruit filling surrounded by light, flaky pastry. Available in apple, cherry, or something else.

Or Ding Dongs.

Oh, those incredible-looking Ding Dongs. Deep dark chocolate cupcakes slathered in chocolate frosting with mysterious white squiggles of delicious sugar adorning the caps. Ding Dongs.

Alas, Flatt Grocery and Drugs didn't stock Ding Dongs or Twinkies or Hostess Fruit Pies. They did stock the occasional comic book. They did stock high octane cough syrup, which my

friend Arch Stanton would steal and drink behind the barber shop owned by Peavey, THE WORLD'S LOUDEST BARBER!

But I couldn't get Ding Dongs.

When I left Flatt in 1993, the last except for Peavey, THE WORLD'S LOUDEST BARBER, my first stop was in Champion, City of Edmonton, where I stumbled into a small convenience store. I had long forgotten Ding Dongs, having spent the greater part of my life running the giant Compost Heap for which Flatt was nationally famous and provincially funded.

There, in Champion, in a small convenience store, in the snack section was a box of cupcakes slathered in dark chocolate, with mysterious white squiggles, called ... KING DONS!!!!

Who was this impostor?

I stood shaken and confused, far from home, alone.

The King Dons sat smugly next to the Twinkies and the Hostess Fruit Pies, in apple, cherry and something else. The mysterious squiggles seemed nothing but splotches to me now, and I impulsively bought a box of Twinkies, which I ate compulsively behind a small barber shop, which had recently been bought by Peavey, THE WORLD'S LOUDEST BARBER!

"Peavey," I said to him. "These Twinkies aren't golden sponge cake with rich, creamy filling. These are crap."

"YES SPARKY. THIS IS TRUE. TWINKIES ARE YET ANOTHER IN A TRADITION OF CORPORATE DISINFORMATION DESIGNED TO DUPE CHILDREN INTO SPENDING THEIR PARENTS' MONEY."

"When did you leave Flatt, Peavey?"

"LIFE IS FULL OF COMINGS AND GOINGS, SPARKY. SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I HAD TO KEEP UP WITH AN EVERCHANGING PROVINCIAL ECONOMY."

Amen, Peavey. Amen. ♦



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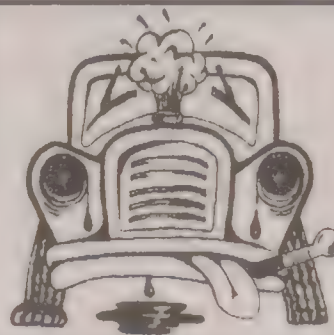
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SPARE

CHANGE

JANUARY 1

1996

Asking for a Re-Deal

16

BY MARJORIE BENCZ

The problem of poverty cannot be part of an intellectual debate. Poverty is about real people with real kids. We give them just enough money so that they don't scream too loudly," says Gayle Graham.

Gayle has just come back from a National Anti-Poverty Organization conference on poverty. She came back with some hope that change is possible and with new strategies for public education, advocacy and coalition building. She has some new energy now for becoming active again.

For a number of years Gayle was not active in the anti-poverty movement. She had been very busy in the mid-eighties, on the board of the National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPCO). She developed and presented workshops on advocacy and poverty. She wrote a controversial article about who actually benefits from Food Banks.

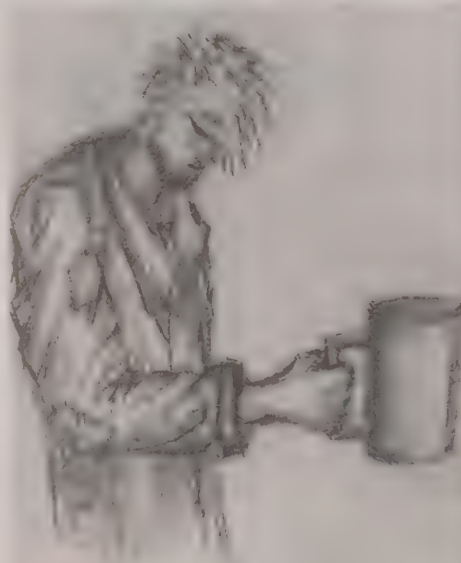
She came to the movement from her own experience of poverty. Gayle got involved after she became a single parent in 1981. She has been doing contract work since she obtained her B.A. in 1984. There have been a variety of community projects, including the development of the first edition of *The Other Welfare Manual*. Her current contract comes to an end next week. She also

works part-time at a shoe store. She took the part-time job to complement her contract work, but it is sometimes her main source of income for herself and her two children, who still live with her.

Gayle explains that her contract work means that her source of income, and her lifestyle, are a bit circular. She completes a project and then often she has to rely on UIC. If UIC runs out before she is able to get another contract she applies for welfare. When she is working, Gayle says she feels "almost middle class." But in other parts of the cycle she surely doesn't.

"Unfortunately, you can never include on your resume that you have a degree in poverty," Gayle explains. She feels organizations need to ensure that barriers do not exist to hamper participation by poor people.

Often low-income people are very marginalized. "If you are low-income



you must convince yourself that your life experience is as valid as someone with a Ph.D. or middle-class background." Gayle says she remembers fewer details about university than she does about being a young single parent and about careful budgeting. Her personal experience is the

ground for her activities. Just now she made the decision to attend the conference because she felt that Alberta was moving further to the "right" and that our society is not investing sufficient resources in programs that reduce poverty and its effects on people.

"If we don't start to organize the people who are affected by poverty, how will we bring about change? People who are not directly affected by poverty do not have the same personal investment in the issues. People who are not affected do not see any reason for a change." In

other words, she says, those who have four aces are not going to ask for a re-deal.

Gayle would like to see an organization of low-income people in Alberta. There's a need for a place for low-income people to decide what they want for themselves. Poor people are often token representatives in organizations and on boards of directors. Organizations do need to have a healthy mix of people and they need to include poor people in decision-making. Poor people need to have a voice.

Gayle said the conference also made it clear that coalition-building is important. We need to seek our allies for the anti-poverty movement. Unions, for example, can have natural links with the movement. As the number of memberships in unions drops, their members often find themselves unemployed and living in poverty. Churches, too, are often sympathetic to people dealing with poverty and sometimes have resources to commit to social justice.

Gayle made it clear that every strategy needs to be explored now to give poor people a strong voice. We must give them the chance, because they sure don't have a hand with four aces, to ask for a re-deal. ♦

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MOVIE • Review

Dracula: Dead and Loving It?

B Y D E A N N A D O U G L A S

Before I begin, I want to get two things out in the open: I am not a Mel Brooks fan – but I can appreciate the difficulty in writing good satire. So I went to Dracula: Dead and Loving It with an open mind; I was in a good mood, and felt ready for something different.

The opening scenes certainly held promise. I settled in, ready for some good cracks at the many Dracula films that have graced the silver screen over the years. But before long, I found the familiar plot clouded with-

slapstick humour, dirty jokes, and very little I hadn't seen many times before.

There were some aspects of the film worth watching. The sets brought back the cheesy Hollywood/Gothic feel of the early Dracula movies, as did the low-cut turn of the century costumes. Brooks chose to use an all-American cast despite the London location, again spoofing a number of earlier versions of the story.

But no matter how hard I tried, I just couldn't laugh. There were a few stabs at the Francis Ford Coppola reincarnation, and the legendarily repressed Victorians of Bram Stoker's day. None of it went far enough.

Dracula isn't exactly the kind of myth that naturally engenders comedy, so to make it funny Brooks would have had to take his satire to the limit. That just didn't happen. The potential was there, but Dead and Loving It fell short of the mark.



There were quite a few members of the audience who did get some laughs out of Brooks'

Dracula; especially the junior high students whose seemed to surround me, spitting Coke in my face to add

to their amusement (not unlike some of the gags featured in the film). If you are a fan of Brooks in particular or slapstick in general – or you have always wanted to see "Naked Gun" in a cape – this may be right up your alley. If not, I would recommend skipping this film. It's not worth your hard-earned loonies... ❖

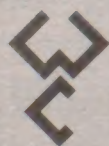
Maybe I can help.

Chris Axworthy, MP

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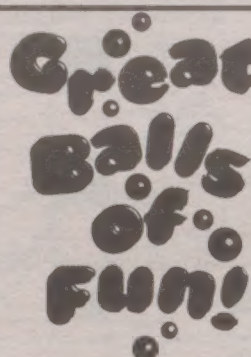
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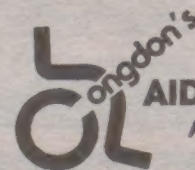
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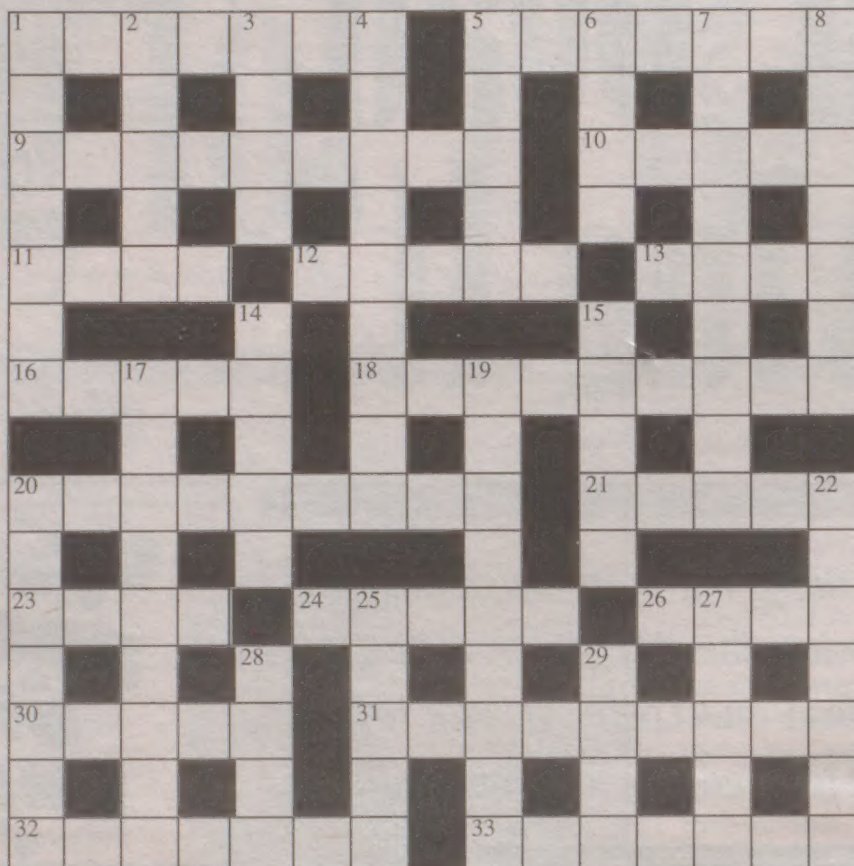
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CROSSWORD • Puzzle 23

BY SUSAN ANDREWS

DOWN

- 1 To come into flower (7)
- 5 Abilities (7)
- 9 To experience being turned down (9)
- 10 Waste-carrying pipe (5)
- 11 Certainly not early! (4)
- 12 Slang: booze, esp. homemade (5)
- 13 Footwear (4)
- 16 King measured? (5)
- 18 Extinct big lizards (9)
- 20 Small, colourful message cards (4,5)
- 21 Swollen bits of tissue (5)
- 23 Wrack and ____ (4)
- 24 Sacred poem (5)
- 26 Same as (4)
- 30 To entertain (5)
- 31 Flammable (9)
- 32 Found on a stove - or outside (7)
- 33 Figures of speech drawing dis-similar comparisons (7)



ACROSS

- 1 Thief! (7)
- 2 French thing (5)
- 3 To fire, or a type of wine (4)
- 4 Get things by post (4,5)
- 5 Invigorating drink or medicine (5)
- 6 To sink - or write one up? (4)
- 7 Dog with nose for scoops (4,5)
- 8 Used to cleanse palates (7)
- 14 To find out (5)
- 15 Employing (5)
- 17 Laziness (9)
- 19 Young birds (9)
- 20 To permeate (7)
- 22 Makes unhappy (7)
- 25 Simple dress, or an 8-10 hour work period (5)
- 27 Tower of ____ (5)
- 28 Nota ____ (4)
- 29 An article, ie of clothing (4)

Answers to December Crossword #22

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Puzzle 23 answers will be published in the January 15, 1996 issue of **Spare Change**.

Due to computer-generated inconsistencies in the December 1995 Crosswords, **Spare Change** has reprinted these Crosswords.

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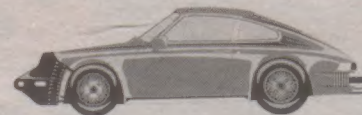
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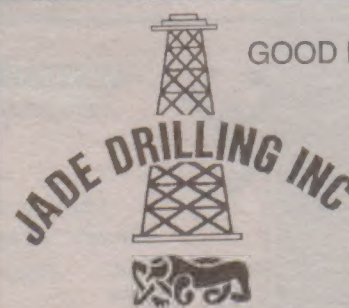
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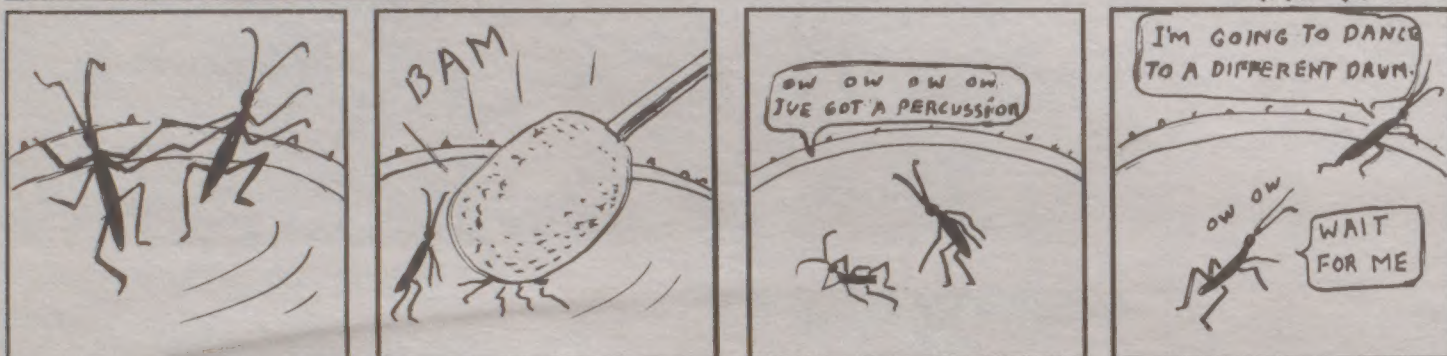
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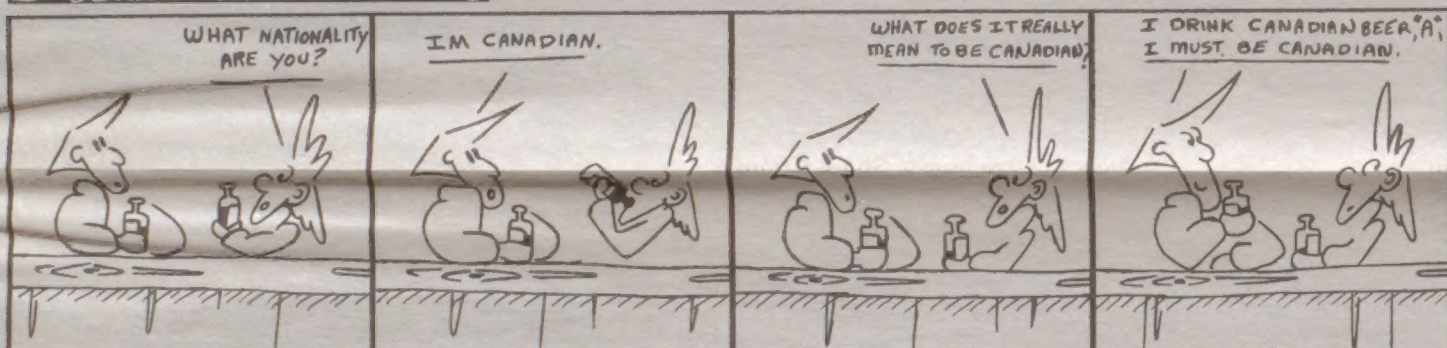
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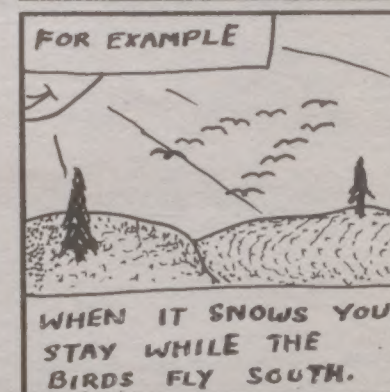
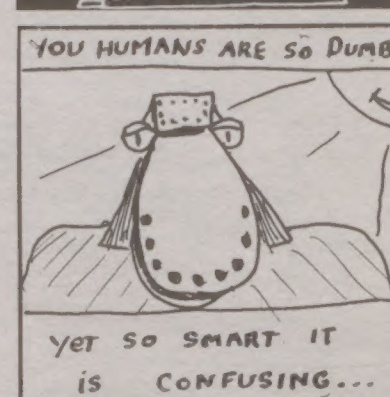
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• Bissell Child Care needs large diapers, small spoons and forks, construction paper, natural fruit juices. If you can help, please call 429-4126.

Computers Needed

• Spare Change needs used IBM compatible computers for our street writers. If you have a working computer, with

software if possible, you can donate please call Spare Change at 423-2285.

Turn Fear into Fun - Toastmasters

• Communication and leadership program. Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, Heritage Room, City Hall, Edmonton. Guests always welcome. Call Tim: 988-8563 or Hans: 439-8098.

Narcotics Anonymous

• Drugs! Have you tried to stop, but can't? Narcotics Anonymous

is a group of recovering addicts who can help. Call 421-4429 (24 hours) for more information.

Spare Change

• Spare Change includes this free notice section for good causes. SEND YOUR NOTICES, 30 words or less, to our Calgary or Edmonton offices by the 8th of the month. Space is limited, some notices may not be published. ♦

"Season's Greetings"

From all the Good Folks at
Jack Hyndman Painting and Decorating

3706 Hill View Crescent
Edm, AB T6L 1C4

462-5398

Helping People Help Themselves

Luana
SHELTER

Exploring Alternatives with Victims of Family Violence
Franciscan Sisters Benevolent Society

11035 - 92 Street
Edmonton, AB

Phone: (403) 422-7263
(403) 424-6872



PHONE 469-5029

Tiger Lily Insulation Ltd.

6114 DAVIES ROAD
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
T6E 4M9



ARTISAN STONE AND TILE WORKS INC.

10453 - 170 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5P 4S7
Phone: (403) 944-9146 FAX: 944-9147

**FRANK'S
SANDBLASTING
& PAINTING**

2203 - 4th Street, Nisku, Alberta T0C 2G0
Phone (403) 955-7808, (403) 955-2633 • Fax (403) 955-8061



Heritage Mall
2323 - 11 Street
Edm, AB T6J 5E5
988-6962

"Warm Wishes for the New Year"

OFFICE: (403) 451-5992
FAX: (403) 451-3927

LOCAL



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14705 - 116 AVENUE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
T5M 3E8

Spare Changers get out & volunteer



▲ First Nighters have a great time volunteering.

BY STEVE GAVIN

All year long with a lot of fun at the many festivals, the folk festival, the Fringe, the Stampede, Klondike Days. These couldn't all go on without the help of the many volunteers who give their time and effort year after year. Spare Change vendors have been volunteering some of their time too. They have good reports about it. Volunteering at the festivals makes you feel good. You are helping to contribute to the betterment of your city and at the same time helping yourself to feel better by doing something with your spare time, they say.

Steve says he liked keeping busy. He liked the atmosphere, making new friends and being in a place where he got to encounter old friends and relatives whom he hadn't seen in quite awhile. Susan says that it's like networking, you can find out about potential paid jobs. If you are in some self-employed occupation like face painting or small load moving, you have the chance of finding new clients. Donna said the experience will be good to put on her resume when she is looking for a job. Les B. liked the responsibility and the work to do; it helped him with his self-esteem. ♦



▲ Happy volunteers in the summertime.



Steve Gavin got out and volunteered at lots of festivals over the year. Here he is with Klondike Kate during Klondike Days in Edmonton.

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JANUARY 1
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